

PATENT
Appl. No. 08/977,591
Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 19-40 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 19, 23-24, 27-30, 33, 35, 37 and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 19-40

In Section 1 of the Office Action of December 1, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "Office Action"), claims 19-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621) in view of Thieme *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,544,321; hereinafter referred to as "Thieme").

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that in "an IEEE1394 interface [the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 1394, High Performance Serial Interface Bus Standard], one bus is shared by a plurality of devices on a time-division multiplex basis, and the devices are connected in a ring configuration or a star configuration to form a network. The video-handling devices are also configured in the same way." *Background of the Specification, page 5, lines 17-21*. The Background continues, "[l]ikewise, a network may be easily constructed in a single home. For example, a video signal reproduced by an optical disk device placed in a living room may be viewed in a monitor device in a bed room." *Background of the Specification, page 5, lines 22-25*. Further, "[i]t would be convenient if a user could continuously watch in the bed room with an easy operation a program that has been viewed from the optical disk device in the living room." *Background of the Specification, page 6, lines 1-4*. Thus, the Background underscores the shortcomings associated with video-handling devices that

PATENT
Appl. No. 08/977,591
Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

do not provide an easy way for a user to continuously view in a second room a program viewed previously in a first room.

To address the above-described shortcomings in video-handling devices, embodiments of the present invention provide an information signal transmission system and method that includes an information signal such as a continued video signal over switched presentation devices, and a remote command device adapted to such an information signal transmission system. *See Specification, page 6, lines 7-11.* (emphasis added)

To achieve the above-described objective, the information signal transmission system of the present invention comprises recipient detecting means for detecting a recipient of the information signal, wherein the information signal that has been supplied to the recipient by a first device is continuously supplied to the recipient by a second device, based on the result detected by the recipient detecting means. *Specification, page 6, lines 12-19.* The recipient of the information signal is detected, and the information signal that has been supplied to the recipient by the first device is continuously supplied to the recipient by the second device, based on the detected result by the recipient detecting means. *Specification, page 6, lines 20-24.*

For example, the information signal transmission system of claim 19, as presented herein, includes:

a network interface connected to a first presentation device and to a second presentation device through a network,

wherein said first presentation device and said second presentation device each include a control block and a remote control receiver, said remote control receiver operable to receive a remote control signal sent by a remote command device and to feed a result of said received remote control signal to said control block;

PATENT

Appl. No. 08/977,591

Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

a control component connected to said network interface, including a microcomputer to control the information signal transmission system;

an information signal component connected to said control component and to said network interface, including a reproduction block to reproduce an information signal received from said control component and an output block to code an information signal reproduced by said reproduction block and output the information signal to said network interface; and

an identification component connected to said control component

wherein while said information signal component outputs an information signal to said first presentation device through said network interface, said identification component stores identification data indicating an identification code identifying a user,

when said control component receives a control request from said second presentation device through said network interface, and said control request includes identification data indicating said identification code identifying said user, said identification component determines that the identification code of said identification data in said control request matches the identification code of said identification data stored by said identification component and sends a change device request to said control component, said change device request indicating said second presentation device, and

when said control component receives said change device request indicating said second presentation device, said control component causes said information signal component to begin to output said information signal to said second presentation device through said network interface.

(emphasis added)

Accordingly, one aspect of claim 19 provides for *a network interface* connected to a first presentation device and to a second presentation device through a network, wherein the first presentation device and the second presentation device each include a control block and a remote control receiver, the remote control receiver operable to receive a remote control signal sent by a

PATENT
Appl. No. 08/977,591
Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

remote command device and to feed a result of the received remote control signal to the control block.

The above claim limitations require that the presentation devices (e.g., monitors) include a control block and a receiver to receive control signals from a remote command device, where the receiver passes a command received from the remote command device to the control block. That is, "[t]he operation of the AV system 1 is switched by operating a remote command device 4 or by directly operating each device." *Specification, page 8, lines 18-21.* (emphasis added) Further, "[a] remote control receiver 20 receives a remote control signal sent by the remote command device 4, and feeds the received result to the control block 16" *Specification, page 15, lines 17-19; Figure 1.*

It was stated in the Office Action that "Iwamura discloses an information signal transmission system (Fig. 1), comprising [a] network interface ... connected to a 1st presentation device ... and to a 2nd presentation device ... through a network 1394 ...; [and a] control component ... connected to the network interface ... including a microcomputer ... to control the information signal transmission system." *Office Action, page 3, lines 17-24.* It was also stated that Iwamura fails to disclose the information signal component, identification component, and the other remaining limitations of claim 19 as cited in the Office Action. *See Office Action, page 4, lines 1-19.* Theimer was then cited for disclosing these limitations. *See Office Action, page 4, line 20 to page 5, line 17.* However, even assuming that Theimer discloses the information signal component, identification component, and the other remaining limitations of claim 19 as cited in the Office Action, Theimer fails to teach or suggest a first presentation device and a second presentation device, wherein the first presentation device and the second presentation device each include a control block and a remote control receiver, the remote control receiver

PATENT
Appl. No. 08/977,591
Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

operable to receive a remote control signal sent by a remote command device and to feed a result of the received remote control signal to the control block. Furthermore, Iwamura fail also to teach or suggest these limitations. Iwamura and Theimer therefore fail to teach or suggest, individually or in combination, all of the limitations of claim 19.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 19 should be allowable over the combination of Iwamura and Theimer. Furthermore, since independent claims 30 and 37, as amended herein, are method and system claims that parallel and recite substantially similar limitations as recited in independent claim 19, claims 30 and 37 should also be allowable over the combination of Iwamura and Theimer. Since claims 20-29, 31-36 and 38-40 depend from claims 19, 30 and 37, respectively, claims 20-29, 31-36 and 38-40 should also be allowable over the combination of Iwamura and Theimer.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 19-40 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 19-40 is respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are

PATENT
Appl. No. 08/977,591
Attorney Docket No. 450100-4193

made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

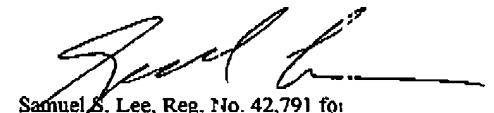
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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